

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 13, 2004. Claims 1 and 2 and Figs. 1, 2, and 4 are being amended. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to because a) in Fig. 1 a link asserted to be identified by reference character 13 D (see just above and to the right of Fig. 1) should be identified by any of reference characters 13A, 13C and 13F; b) in Fig. 2 the lead lines for reference characters 13E and 13F lead to the same link; and c) Fig. 4 does match the description.

As stated in Applicant's remarks filed December 1, 2003, the reference character in Fig. 1 just above and to the right of Fig. 1 is 13A. A proposed drawing change to Fig. 1 more clearly showing this change accompanies this response. Fig. 2 is being amended, as shown in the proposed drawing change, to extend the lead line for reference character 13E and designate the link adjacent link 13D as 13E. Fig. 4 is being amended to show bolts 16A and 16C disposed through holes in flange 19 and bolt 16B disposed through a hole in flange 17. Approval of this proposed drawing change is respectfully requested. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the fastener means and link means are recited as both a single element with the fastener means including the link mean and as separate and distinct elements. Claims 1 and 2 are being amended to delete any reference to fastener means. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Andrä et al. (WO 99/15803). Andrä et al. discloses a coupling having an annular body 10 formed of a moldable material, parallel bores formed through the body, link means 12 passing around each bore, and a bushing 16 received in each bore. Collars 18, 19 extend radially outwardly from each bushing end. The Office Action asserts that the collars

18, 18' disclosed in Andrä et al. satisfies the washer means limitation claimed in claim 1 of the present application and that the peripheral formations 30, 30' of Andrä et al. satisfies the peripheral formations limitation in claim 1 of the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees with these assertions.

The coupling in Andrä et al. is fundamentally different from the coupling claimed in the present application. In particular, as discussed below, the moldable material forming the body of Andrä et al. is disposed between collars engaging, or formed part of, a bushing. The collars position the bushing during vulcanization of the coupling body. The invention claimed in the present application does not need a bushing, and includes washer means having peripheral formations that engage the moldable material to lock the washer means relative to the body formed by the moldable material.

In the Response to Arguments of the Office Action, the Office Action asserts that there are no limitations in the claims which would preclude the washers recited in the claims from being attached to bushings. Claim 1, is being amended to include the limitation of "at least a portion of each of said bores being formed exclusively by apertures of at least one of said link means." This limitation precludes a bushing extending between the washers recited in the claims, as disclosed in Andrä et al. Support for this limitation can be found in the last full paragraph of page 5 of Applicant's specification.

Claims 2, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1 which Applicant believes is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Andrä et al. is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrä et al. Claims 4-6 depend from 1 which is now believed allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Andrä et al. is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrä et al. in view of Bingle et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,986,364) Bingle et al. relates to an electrically operated mirror actuated assembly and has no relation to a flexible coupling for connecting a drive to a driven shaft. Accordingly, one skilled in the art of couplings would not look to Bingle et al. for anything it discloses. Moreover, claim 3

depends from 1 which is now believed allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Andrä et al. in view of Bingle et al. is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 of the present application are being amended, as discussed above. Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 which is believed allowable. In addition, Figs. 1, 2, and 4 are being amended to overcome the objections to the drawings. In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims and Figs. 1, 2, and 4, Applicant respectfully requests approval of the proposed drawing changes and allowance of claims 1-8. No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due. However, if such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. G. Radler', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel G. Radler
Reg. No. 43,028
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Tel. No. (414) 277-5000